

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A service providing apparatus for providing services comprising:

an authentication information managing section configured to manage authentication information related to the services, the authentication information having a term of validity;

~~an extension request accepting section~~ a processor configured to accept an extension request to extend the term of validity of the authentication information, judge whether the authentication information was created by the service providing apparatus by referring to an identifier included in the authentication information when the request to extend the term of validity of the authentication information is received, ~~and~~ judge whether the extension request was made within the term of validity of the authentication information ~~if the ticket was created by the service providing apparatus,~~ and compare a stored number of times the term of validity of the authentication information has been extended against a threshold value; and

an authentication information updating section configured to extend the term of validity of the authentication information when the authentication information was created by the service providing apparatus, ~~and~~ the extension request was made within the term of validity of the authentication information, and the stored number of times the term of validity of the authentication information has been extended is less than the threshold value.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The service providing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said authentication information managing section is configured to manage the authentication information, information related to a request source which makes the extension

request to extend the term of validity of the authentication information, and an authority to extend the term of validity of the authentication information.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The service providing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said authentication information managing section is configured to manage, ~~in a related manner,~~ the authentication information, information related to a request source which made a creating request to create the authentication information, information related to a request source which makes the extension request to extend the term of validity of the authentication information, and an authority to extend the term of validity of the authentication information.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The service providing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said authentication information updating section is configured to judge whether a request source which made the extension request to extend the term of validity of the authentication information has an authority to extend the term of validity, and extends the term of validity of the authentication information when it is judged that the request source has the authority to extend the term of validity.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The service providing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said authentication information updating section is configured to extend the term of validity of the authentication information when it is judged that the request source has the authority to extend the term of validity, create new authentication information including the extended term of validity, and delete the old authentication information.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The service providing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said authentication information managing section is configured to manage the authentication information and an extended term of validity of the authentication information ~~in a related manner.~~

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The service providing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said authentication information managing section is configured to manage the authentication information and a number of times the term of validity of the authentication information is extended ~~in a related manner.~~

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The service providing apparatus as claimed in claim 5, further comprising:

an extension response sending section configured to send an extension response including an identifier for identifying the newly created authentication information having the term of validity extended by said authentication information updating section.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The service providing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

a monitoring section configured to monitor the term of validity of the authentication information.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The service providing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

a notifying section configured to transmit information related to the term of validity of the authentication information to a request source which made a creating request to create the authentication information.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A service providing method performed by a service providing apparatus to provide services from [[a]] the service providing apparatus, comprising:

managing authentication information related to the services, the authentication information having a term of validity;

accepting an extension request to extend the term of validity of the authentication information;

judging, at a processor of the service providing apparatus, whether the authentication information was created by the service providing apparatus by referring to an identifier included in the authentication information when the request to extend the term of validity of the authentication information is accepted;

judging, at the processor of the service providing apparatus, whether the extension request was made within the term of validity of the authentication information ~~if the ticket was created by the service providing apparatus~~;

comparing, at the processor of the service providing apparatus, a stored number of times the term of validity of the authentication information has been extended against a threshold value; and

extending the term of validity of the authentication information when the authentication information was created by the service providing apparatus, ~~and the extension request was made within the term of validity of the authentication information, and the stored~~

number of times the term of validity of the authentication information has been extended is less than the threshold value.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The service providing method as claimed in claim 11, wherein said managing includes managing, ~~in a related manner~~, the authentication information, information related to a request source which makes the extension request to extend the term of validity of the authentication information, and an authority to extend the term of validity of the authentication information.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The service providing method as claimed in claim 11, wherein said managing includes managing, ~~in a related manner~~, the authentication information, information related to a request source which made a creating request to create the authentication information, information related to a request source which makes the extension request to extend the term of validity of the authentication information, and an authority to extend the term of validity of the authentication information.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The service providing method as claimed in claim 11, further comprising:

judging whether a request source which made the extension request to extend the term of validity of the authentication information has an authority to extend the term of validity;  
and

extending the term of validity of the authentication information when it is judged that the request source has the authority to extend the term of validity.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The service providing method as claimed in claim 11, further comprising:

judging whether a request source which made the extension request to extend the term of validity of the authentication information has an authority to extend the term of validity; extending the term of validity of the authentication information when it is judged that the request source has the authority to extend the term of validity; and creating new authentication information including the extended term of validity.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The service providing method as claimed in claim 11, wherein said managing includes managing the authentication information and an extended term of validity of the authentication information ~~in a related manner~~.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The service providing method as claimed in claim 11, wherein managing includes managing the authentication information and a number of times the term of validity of the authentication information is extended ~~in a related manner~~.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The service providing method as claimed in claim 11, further comprising:

sending an extension response including an identifier for identifying the authentication information having the term of validity extended and the term of validity of the authentication information.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The service providing method as claimed in claim 11, further comprising:

monitoring the term of validity of the authentication information.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The service providing method as claimed in claim 11, further comprising:

transmitting information related to the term of validity of the authentication information to a request source which made a creating request to create the authentication information.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): A memory ~~computer-readable storage medium~~ which stores a program, which when executed by ~~for causing~~ a service providing apparatus, causes the service providing apparatus to perform a method to provide services, said method comprising:

managing authentication information related to the services and having a term of validity;

accepting an extension request to extend the term of validity of the authentication information;

judging whether the authentication information was created by the service providing apparatus by referring to an identifier included in the authentication information when the request to extend the term of validity of the authentication information is accepted;

judging whether the extension request was made within the term of validity of the authentication information ~~if the ticket was created by the service providing apparatus;~~

comparing a stored number of times the term of validity of the authentication information has been extended against a threshold value; and

extending the term of validity of the authentication information when the authentication information was created by the service providing apparatus, ~~and~~ the extension request was made within the term of validity of the authentication information, and the stored

number of times the term of validity of the authentication information has been extended is less than the threshold value.

Claims 22-44 (Canceled)